Redesigning POCT EQA Feedback

Tailored Guidance for POCT Users and a Streamlined Tool for POCT Coordinators

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EQALM 2026-10-15

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About Equalis

Accredited not-for-profit EQA organisation,
based in Uppsala, Sweden

Ackred. nr. 1643
Kompetensprövning
ISO/IEC 17043

1992
Founded

32
Employees

150
Experts within Swedish health care

21
Areas of expertise

130
EQA schemes in laboratory medicine and diagnostic imaging

OWNED BY

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

Swedish Institute for Biomedical Laboratory Science

Swedish Society of Medicine

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Agenda

01

Tailored Guidance for POCT Users

Performance summary emails

Sara Ekvall

02

Streamlined Tool for POCT Coordinators

Equalis Insights

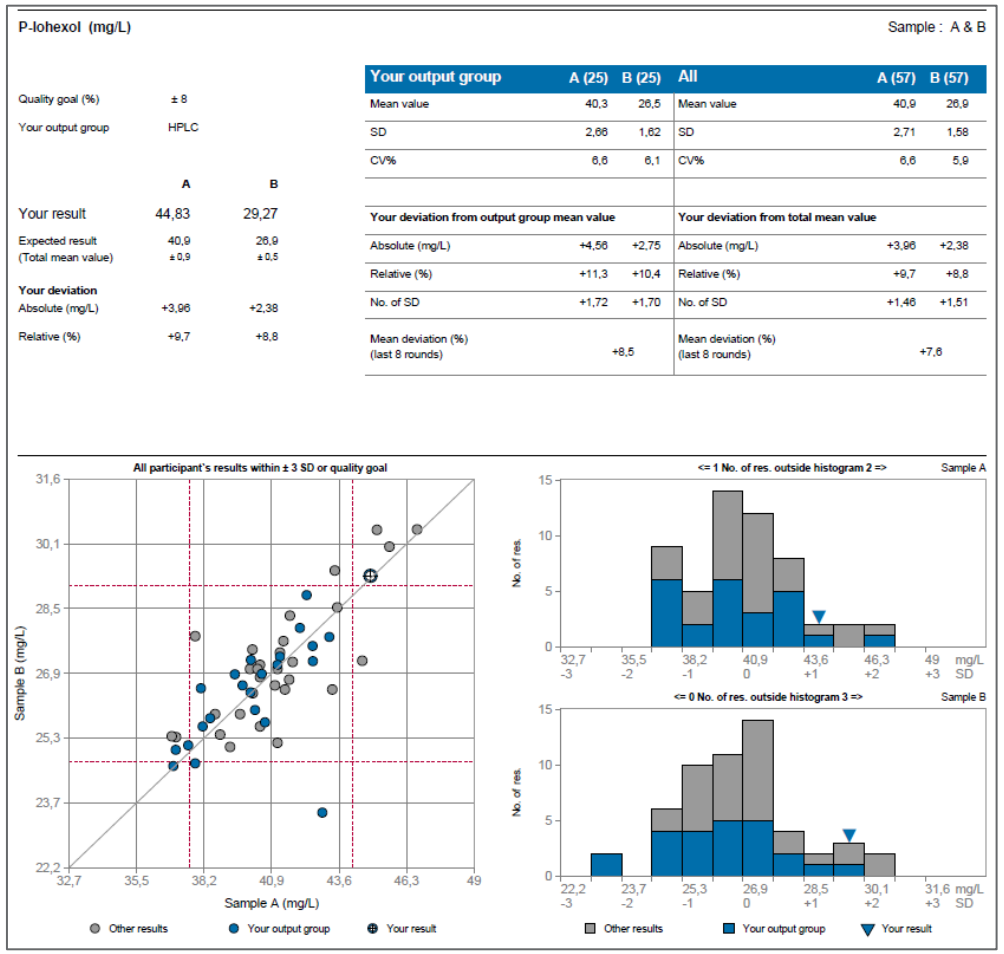
David Afzelius

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Tailored guidance for POCT users – How did it all start?

Starting point

Interviews with POCT coordinators in all 21 regions in Sweden → Need for an easier evaluation process of EQA results emerged



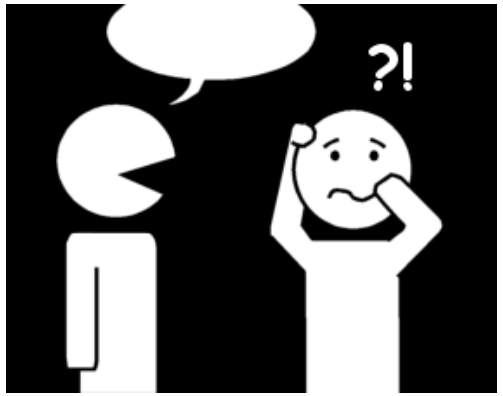
P-Iohexol (mg/L) — Sample : A & B

Quality goal (%)	± 8	
Your output group	HPLC	
	A	B
Your result	44,83	29,27
Expected result (Total mean value)	40,9 ± 0,9	26,9 ± 0,5
Your deviation		
Absolute (mg/L)	+3,96	+2,38
Relative (%)	+9,7	+8,8

Your output group	A (25)	B (25)	All	A (57)	B (57)
Mean value	40,3	26,5	Mean value	40,9	26,9
SD	2,66	1,62	SD	2,71	1,58
CV%	6,6	6,1	CV%	6,6	5,9
Your deviation from output group mean value			Your deviation from total mean value		
Absolute (mg/L)	+4,56	+2,75	Absolute (mg/L)	+3,96	+2,38
Relative (%)	+11,3	+10,4	Relative (%)	+9,7	+8,8
No. of SD	+1,72	+1,70	No. of SD	+1,46	+1,51
Mean deviation (%) (last 8 rounds)	+8,5		Mean deviation (%) (last 8 rounds)	+7,6	

Reports to POCT users before redesign

- Fulfill an important need
- Quite extensive
- Difficult to interpret without statistical background
- Time-consuming to go through each of them



Information overload

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Tailored guidance for POCT **users** – How did we solve it?

Equalis rapporter

noreply@equalis.se
Till Christina Andersson

Svara | Svara alla | Vidarebefordra

ons 2023-03-01 13:01

[Du får inte e-post ofta från noreply@equalis.se. Läs om varför det här är viktigt på https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Art. Nr:13 | Hb, Glukos och CRP, patientnära analyser | Omgång 2023:02

Nu finns rapporter tillgängliga att hämta via Equalis Online. Vänligen besök https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.equalis.se%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cchristina.andersson%40equalis.se%7C0412ee67b63d443ebc4008db1a4c9876%7C43946fa4[illegible]1148a9bb6ae4599e3e7a81%7C0%7C0%7C638132688511234566%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=e7UFc9uiYcUGogb80W3vlmrHD7XnyNcucv%2FCKBt2Jjc%3D&reserved=0 och logga in uppe till höger.



Equalis: Your EQA results (Art. Nr: 12)

Art. Nr: 12 | HbA1c. | Round 2026:01 | 3139-1 - Department of [redacted]

Reports are now available to download at Equalis Online (www.equalis.se/en). Below is a short summary of your results:

Your results showed good quality, no action is required according to Equalis's evaluation criteria.

Do you no longer work in this unit or should someone else receive this email? Please fill in the form "Change participant details" available on our webpage for participant administration: https://www.equalis.se/en/for-participants/participant-administration/

EQUALIS

Equalis: Your EQA results (Art. Nr: 13)

Art. Nr: 13 | Hb-Glucose-CRP | Round 2026:01 | 73-2 -

Reports are now available to download at Equalis Online (www.equalis.se/en). Below is a short summary of your results:

No results submitted in this round, no assessment can be performed.

Only results of poor quality or missing results are presented in the table, i.e. results of good quality are not presented.

Component	Output group	Instrument	Results	Deviation	Expected result	Comments
B-Hemoglobin	Hemocue	NR1_1611621009	Result not submitted	No assessment	138	
B-Hemoglobin	Hemocue	NR2_2209622041	Result not submitted	No assessment	138	
B-Hemoglobin	Hemocue	NR3_1611621018	Result not submitted	No assessment	138	
P-Glucose	Hemocue 201 RT	NR1_1610731006	Result not submitted	No assessment	10,4	
P-Glucose	Hemocue 201 RT	NR2_ 2219732038	Result not submitted	No assessment	10,4	
P-Glucose	Hemocue 201 RT	NR3_1613731007	Result not submitted	No assessment	10,4	

Possible explanations for no submitted results:

1. You have not analysed the test material and/or reported your result at Equalis Online.

2. The test material arrived after last date of analysis. If the late delivery hasn't already been reported, please fill in the form "Report late delivery of test material" available on our webpage for participant administration: https://www.equalis.se/en/for-participants/participant-administration/

3. The stated instrument is no longer in use. Please fill in the form "Addition or removal of instrument" available on our webpage for participant administration: https://www.equalis.se/en/for-participants/participant-administration/

Do you no longer work in this unit or should someone else receive this email? Please fill in the form "Change participant details" available on our webpage for participant administration: https://www.equalis.se/en/for-participants/participant-administration/

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Equalis: Your EQA results (Art. Nr: 13)

Art. Nr: 13 | Hb-Glucose-CRP | Round 2026:01 | 787-1 -

Reports are now available to download at Equalis Online (www.equalis.se/en). Below is a short summary of your results:

Your results showed poor quality, action is required according to Equalis's evalutation criteria.

Only results of poor quality or missing results are presented in the table, i.e. results of good quality are not presented.

Component	Output group	Instrument	Results	Deviation	Expected result	Comments
P-CRP	Afinion	Afinion AS 100	61	Outside the quality goal	52	

Last date of analysis: 20-JAN-26
Date of analysis: 16-JAN-26
Lot.number: 10234716

Please take actions on your results of poor quality according to your organization's internal routines. Below is some advice for your investigation:

1. Have you followed the instructions for use for the EQA sample (available at Equalis online) and analyzed the EQA sample in time?

2. Have the used reagents (e.g. cuvettes or cassettes) been stored according to the manufacturer's instructions?

3. Have the used reagents (e.g. cuvettes or cassettes) passed the expiry date?

4. Have the internal quality controls for the analysis been approved during the last month?

5. Did your EQA results in the last round show good or poor quality?

Do you no longer work in this unit or should someone else receive this email? Please fill in the form "Change participant details" available on our webpage for participant administration: https://www.equalis.se/en/for-participants/participant-administration/

All actions are unique to each region and can be tailored to each EQA scheme.

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Tailored guidance for POCT users – Where are we now?

START

Scope

Scheme Hb, Glucose and CRP.

6 MONTHS

Pilot

Two regions, with continuous feedback.

PREPARATION

Regions on board

All POCT coordinators contacted. Actions requested and recorded per region.

JUNE 2023

First launch

New design sent to all participants in scheme Hb, Glucose and CRP

SPRING 2024

All schemes

New design for all 13 POCT schemes.



Positive feedback from both POCT users and POCT coordinators

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Response from POCT users and coordinators

“More users have contacted me as a coordinator. The response rate has increased. This is great!”

“Simple and clear!”

“Very good. Now users contact me before I have seen the results!”

“A tremendous boost for our health centers. Saves a lot of time.“

“Very good!”

Response rates rose within six months

USERS

85% → 89%

+4 percentage points



INSTRUMENTS

68% → 75%

+7 percentage points



*Hb/Glucose/CRP scheme,
response rate before vs. after 6 months

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Streamlined Tool for POCT Coordinators

Starting point

A meeting with one of Sweden's larger regions made it clear that reviewing our EQA results was too time-consuming, and that something better could be built.

Regional POCT coordinators are responsible for every POCT unit in a region or sub-region.

Read pdf-reports

Every unit's results every round. In a large region >1000 results/round

→

Review and process

Careful attention needed to find the units that require action.

→

Work in local systems

Results and deviations transferred with comments and actions

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Streamlined Tool for POCT Coordinators - Objectives

1 **Focus on what needs attention**

Deviations and missing answers, with the option to dig into the details

2 **Reflect each region’s organisation**

Filter and explore results at regional and sub-regional level and type of care settings.

3 **Support for handling issues**

Identify issues, follow up on actions and monitor laboratories over time.

4 ADDED LATER IN PROJECT

Facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing

Help regions to collaborate and share information.

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The projects timeline

2023

One scheme to start

Hb, Glucose and CRP.

PILOT

6 months · 2 regions · continuous feedback

2024

All 13 POCT schemes

Every POCT scheme presented in Equalis Insights.

2025

Collaboration platform

Sharing contacts, instruments and documents added.

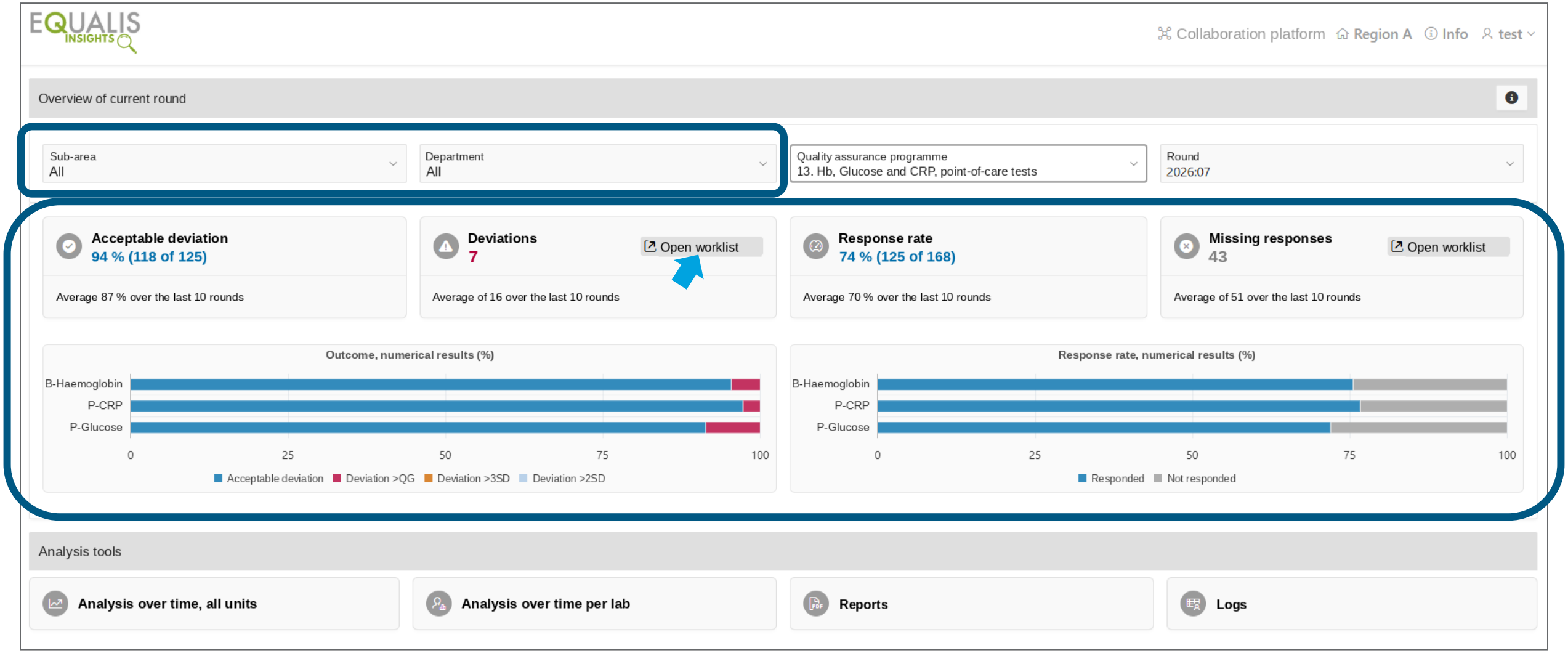
TODAY

16/21

Swedish regions connected

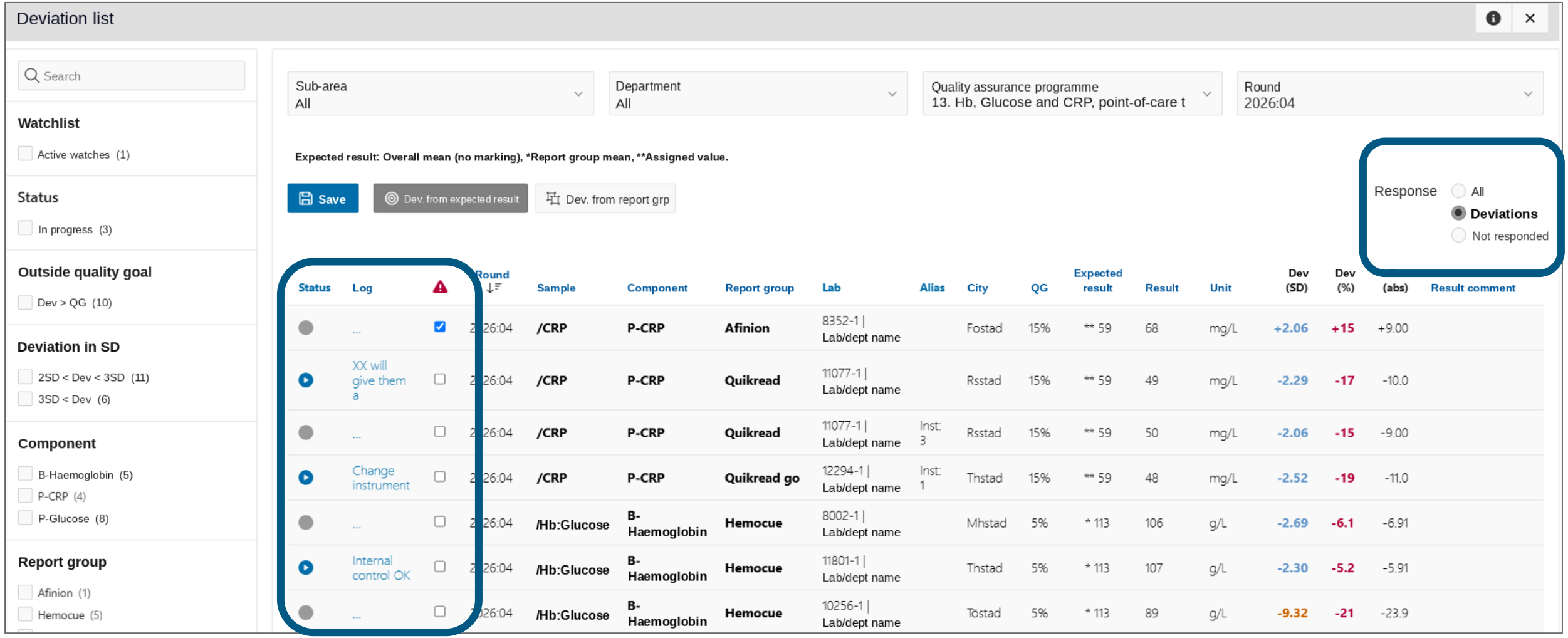
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What we build: Equalis Insights



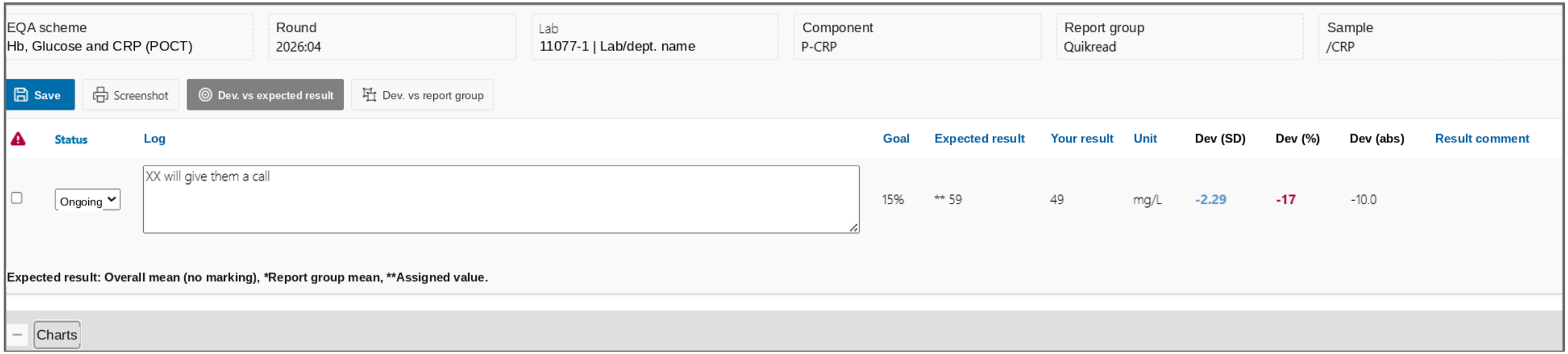
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Work list – In tabular form



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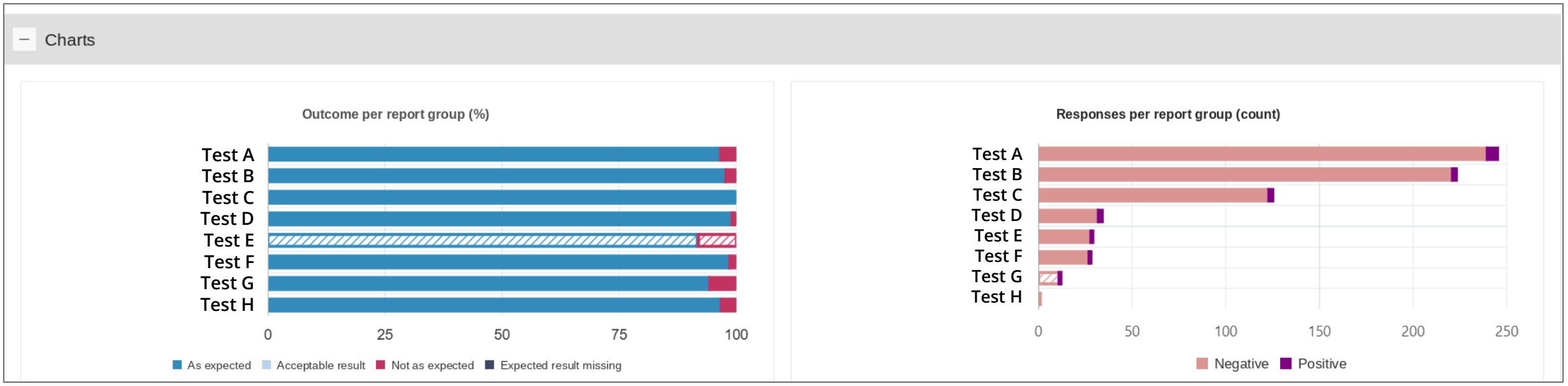
Detailed view - comments, status and watch list



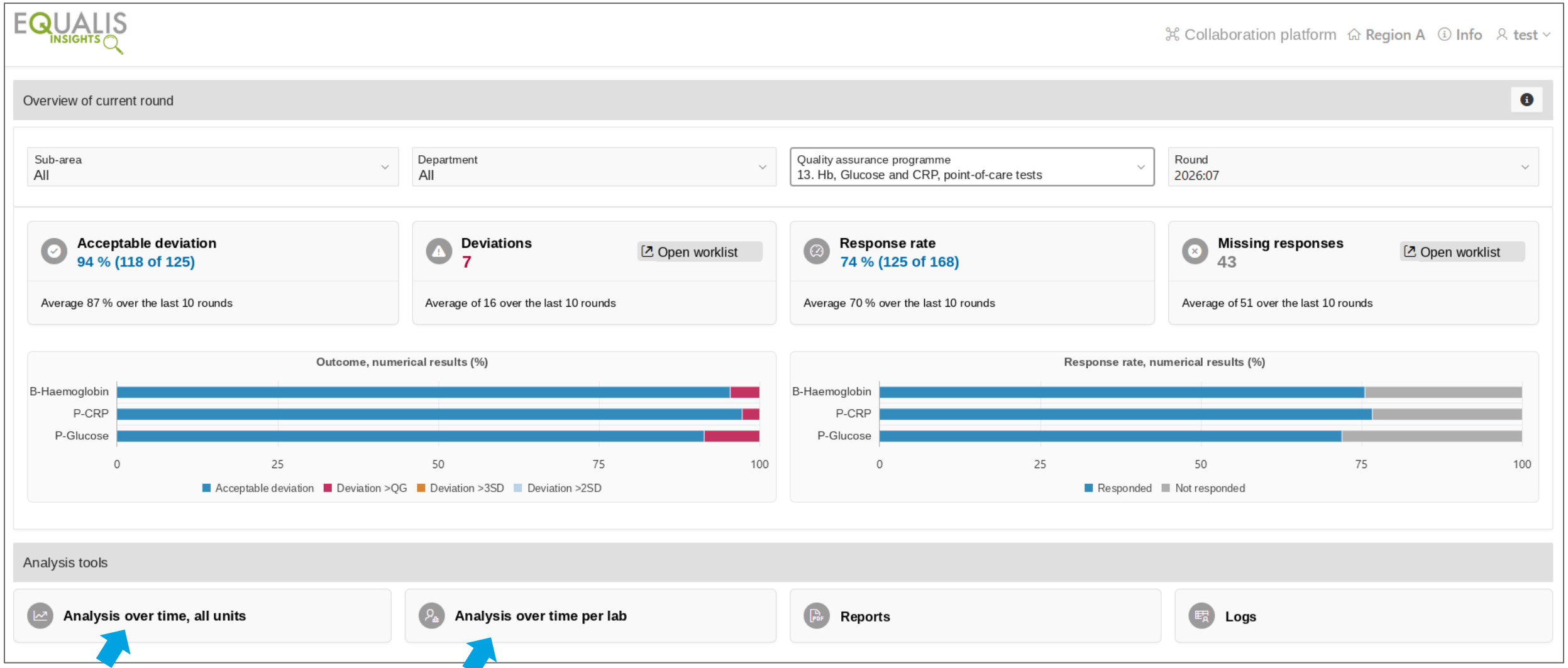
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Detailed view – Charts



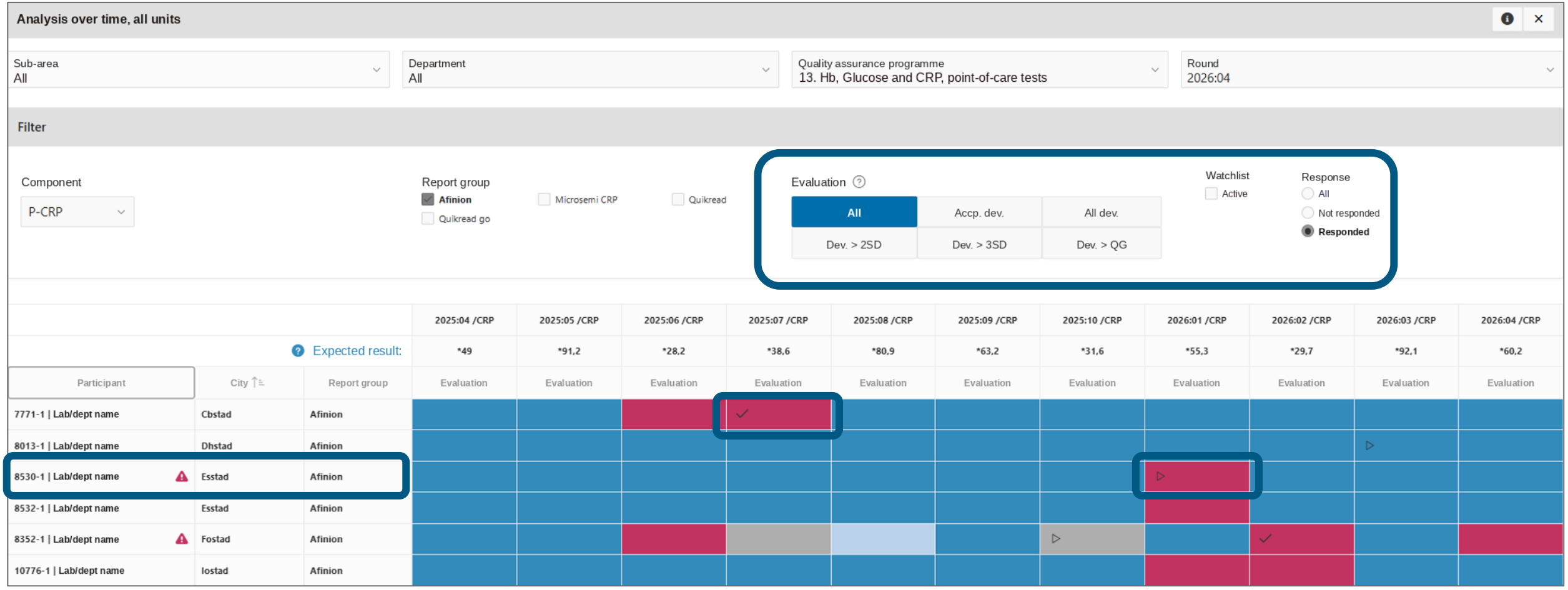


Equalis Insights: Start page



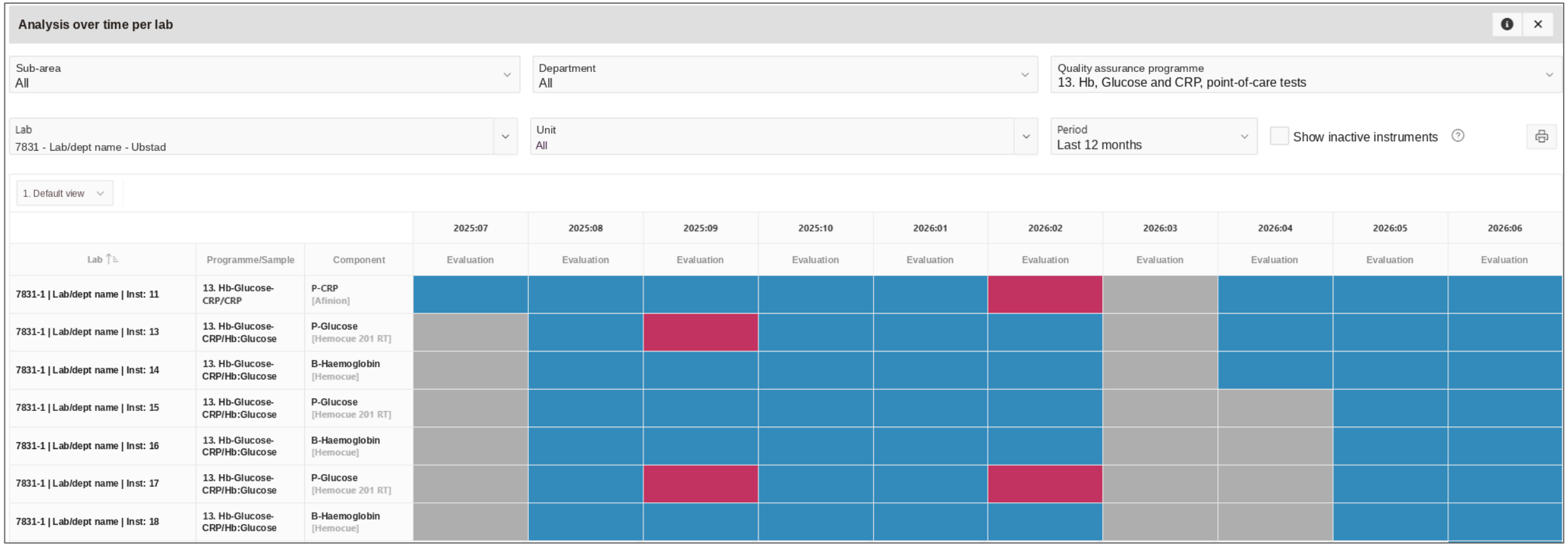
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Worklist – matrix form



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Evaluate a single POCT-lab



Analysis over time per lab

Sub-area: All
Department: All
Quality assurance programme: 13. Hb, Glucose and CRP, point-of-care tests
Lab: 7831 - Lab/dept name - Ubstad
Unit: All
Period: Last 12 months
Show inactive instruments
1. Default view

Lab	Programme/Sample	Component	2025:07 Evaluation	2025:08 Evaluation	2025:09 Evaluation	2025:10 Evaluation	2026:01 Evaluation	2026:02 Evaluation	2026:03 Evaluation	2026:04 Evaluation	2026:05 Evaluation	2026:06 Evaluation
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 11	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/CRP	P-CRP [Afinion]										
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 13	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/Hb:Glucose	P-Glucose [Hemocue 201 RT]										
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 14	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/Hb:Glucose	B-Haemoglobin [Hemocue]										
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 15	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/Hb:Glucose	P-Glucose [Hemocue 201 RT]										
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 16	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/Hb:Glucose	B-Haemoglobin [Hemocue]										
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 17	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/Hb:Glucose	P-Glucose [Hemocue 201 RT]										
7831-1 | Lab/dept name | Inst: 18	13. Hb-Glucose-CRP/Hb:Glucose	B-Haemoglobin [Hemocue]										

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The keys to project success

Both the performance summary emails and Equalis Insights have been very well received by our participants — saving them real time and increasing their engagement with external quality assessment.

1

Understand user needs

Learn how participants and coordinators actually work with their results.

2

Run focused pilots

One scheme, two regions, six months before scaling up.

3

Involve the users

Continuous feedback meetings with the regional coordinators.

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Thank you! Questions?

Sara Ekvall · David Afzelius

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